



via pacis

march/april
vol. 13 no. 2

Around the House



Three of the Grinnell students who have been working with us on Saturdays spent their spring break here working on the new house and helping out with chores at Lazarus House. Jim broke them in by taking them out to Indianola where the Methodist Church gave us the opportunity to salvage flooring and siding from two houses that were scheduled for demolition. After a few days of that it was time to start putting the mountain of materials into place in the new house. We really appreciate all the work Mike, Gail and Howard put in around here and especially their enthusiasm in everything they did -- laying floors, staining windows, nailing up siding -- they were up for whatever needed to be done. It was great to have them with us and we are looking forward to seeing them on future Saturdays.

Another really concrete contribution came from two Mennonite work camps which each spent a few days with us, one in February and the other in March. The first group painted the first floor of Corrie House, redid a rotted out bathroom floor at Ligutti House, entertained kids and did a lot of cleaning at Lazarus House; and the second group finished painting the new house, did some interior painting, cleaned out Lazarus basement (no mean feat) and did a really thorough job of cleaning up all the yards and empty lots around our houses.

We are enjoying a visit from Judith Dawes, who has come from England and is visiting a number of Catholic Worker Houses to get experience and ideas so that she can open up a house in England. Judith was busy in the kitchen within an hour of her arrival and has joined in on all of our activities including our Sunday afternoon Spanish classes! It's been really interesting to hear of her experiences at other Workers and the peace encampment in Nevada, and we're looking forward to the roundtable discussion with her on April 14 where she will be sharing her experiences in the peace movement in England.

The first thing I always think of when it comes to writing the house article is how many kids there are here. Actually that's one of my main conversations I have with myself, especially when I'm on the house, so when I was counting them recently and realized that even if no guests were staying here at all we now have nine permanent kids, it's no wonder that things are so wild around here all the time! There is a group of boys (Fernando, 12, Jann, 7, Omar, 7, Luke, 6, Kary, 4 and Julius, 4), two little girls (Nora, 3 and Katie, 2), and Kenna, 10. Of course since most of the time the house is full, at any given time there are five to ten more kids who are part of the group. So with all this youthful energy around, it's been really nice to have Dennis McLaughlin and a new volunteer, Mary Kay, spending time at the house on Sunday evenings. Both of them are great with the kids and everyone really looks forward to seeing them. Some of the Grinnell students who come every Saturday afternoon have been entertaining the little kids as well, and it's been a nice break for the parents as well as a great treat for the kids. All the kids are also pretty interested in garden preparations and work on the new house, and are really happy when they are included in planting, watering, or are given the chance to try their hand at any of the tools.

Anyway, keeping these examples in mind, we thought we'd better start planning some organized activities for the kids since the warm weather is already upon us and summer vacation on its way. We've been collecting storybooks and are still looking for crayons, paste, scissors, arts and crafts supplies of all kinds, balls, jumpropes, games (not the kind with a million pieces, please) and most of all adults or teenagers who would like to help out with a regular afternoon activity time. We certainly hope some folks will feel like giving some good energy to all these kids.



Plans are shaping up to start a farm community on the farm near Cumming where Kay Meyer and Barry Haglan and their children have been living for 10 years. More in Kay's article, but it's giving our annual gardening enthusiasm, which usually peters out about a week after the garden is planted, some substance. Especially since Kay is taking charge of the garden across from Ligutti House and has been growing seedlings in her room, so she must be serious! Some of the folks from Kindred Community, a couple of the Grinnell students, and some other friends have been meeting with Kay and Barry to make plans for the farm, and it looks like things are getting underway.

Another joint community effort is the Spanish classes Rich Miller of Kindred Community has been giving Sunday afternoons at Ligutti House. There are about 10 of us trying to learn, and Fernando thinks our efforts are pretty comical! Rich hasn't given up hope yet and hopefully it won't be too long before we can communicate at least a little.

Kay Meyer and her kids Kenna, Jann, and Kary, moved into Ligutti House April 1st. They have been so much a part of things around here in recent months that it's hard to think of them as new members! In addition to spending a lot of time on the house, Kay has been planting gardens here and at her farm, home schooling her kids and their curious friends, and making willow baskets to sell at Living History Farms where she will be working parttime as a potter starting May 1st. Kenna has been volunteering at CND and taking care of community kids, and Jann and Kary are having a great time with all the new kids to play with. It's really great having them here.



JR Stockberger has decided to accept another volunteer assignment with the Brethren Volunteer Service. JR will be moving to Elgin, Illinois to work at Brethren headquarters assisting the Director of Orientations. His new assignment doesn't start till June 1st so we'll have him around till then.



The rest of us are still around -- Patti is still working at Westminster House two days a week and helping out at Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and Trinity United Methodist as well as working here at the house; Norman promises that this summer he will definitely buy a truck and is continuing to work at Panda Foods, visit his friend Sheryl at Mitchellville and work here at the house; Wendy and the kids are getting ready to go out to the East Coast to see family and friends; Jim is working every day on new house renovations plus covering the house at all sorts of odd times and keeping Katie Bobbitt (and therefore the rest of us) in good spirits; Carla is still doing the food store every day and spends all day at the house filling in everywhere and keeping us all laughing.

We want to thank here the folks who help out regularly on the house -- Kathi Sircy and Kaitlin, the CND community, Dennis and Mary Kay, and just say again how great it is when outside friends come in and spend some time working with us. It's been a real boost to have the Grinnell students and Judith and the work camps here with us, just as an influx of energy, and as we are heading into the summer pretty short on people we really want to encourage anyone who has some time to come here and spend a week or two or even a few days with us. It's a good way to find out what the community and the work are all about, and it would really be a major contribution too.

MORE HOUSE NEWS

With the warm weather we have been able to get working again over at the new house. Habitat let us know about the houses the Methodist Church was knocking down in Indianola and we were able to salvage enough materials to finish the floors on the first floor as well as side the back porch. Some of the cabinets Jim and Hazen have been working on are in place now, and most of the interior has been sheetrocked. New dining room tables and benches, made from leftover oak flooring, are temporarily in place at Lazarus House where everyone who walks in admires them.



WHO WE ARE

The Catholic Worker is a group of individuals living together in community and working together in pursuit of common goals of peace and justice. In our life together we are trying to live out the Biblical mandate to love one another, and so our houses are open to anyone in need, to stay on a temporary or occasionally a longterm basis.

The Catholic Worker is not a tax exempt organization. Members work as unpaid volunteers, receiving only room and board for our work. We neither seek nor accept government or foundation moneys of any kind, choosing to depend on gifts from our extended community who give at a personal sacrifice. In our refusal to conform to organizational structures, we affirm the responsibility of all to assume personal responsibility for those in need and for the problems facing us all in the world. We invite all to join us in whatever way you can.

needs

money

food (meat, dry goods, tomato products, coffee, sugar)

towels and pillows

pampers

cleaning products (except soap powder; we now have a regular donation of laundry detergent)

arts and crafts supplies,

games, kids' books

volunteers (to tape and finish drywall; to trim out rooms at new house; to help with childcare; to take shifts on the house)

Our most urgent volunteer needs now at the new house are for someone who has experience taping and finishing sheetrock, and for a finish carpenter to hang doors and trim out the rooms. We also have neither the means nor the wherewithal to get the plumbing done. We know this is the third straight issue to beg for money and help with the plumbing, but it is just not coming in and there is no way we can work around it -- plumbing is expensive and it's not something we can do ourselves because it does require a licensed plumber.

We want to thank the Grinnell students, the Mennonite work camps, the Tool Lending Library, Habitat, the Knights of Columbus, and all who have been helping out with work on the house recently.



A Different Kind

*We're the ones you try so much to avoid
When walking on the street
Due to the clothing that we wear
The worn out shoes upon our feet*

*Do you wonder much about us
How we came to be this way
And if maybe we were different
At another time and day*

*You're asking what could we have done
To deserve such a way of life
Not knowing what will happen next
Almost sure it will bring strife*

*Well those of you who put us down
Each time we pass you by
Have never given us a chance
Or for a moment let us try*

*To prove the goodness of our hearts
How kind and caring we can be
Until that day you have no right
To judge by what you see*

MASS SCHEDULE

Fr. Frank Cordaro will be celebrating mass here at the Worker on the dates listed below. Mass begins at 7:30 and all are invited -- please come early and stay late.

May 12
June 16
July 7



Many thanks to Dean for all your help with each issue, and to Doug for doing the mailing list.

S. Brian Willson will be the key speaker at the All-Iowa Peace Day which will be celebrated April 29 on the Grinnell campus. The day's activities will include workshops, bands, community service projects, and group discussions.

We have received a letter from a blacetty good Louis family who are seeking help in getting to a trial in Jackson, MS. The Hoover family was passing thru in too great a hurry to get to the trial in Jackson immediately after a demonstration against the beating of a black woman by Jackson police. They themselves, though they had not attended the demonstration and were in no way connected with it, were dragged from their car and beaten in the middle of a patch of interstate highway in front of witnesses. They have been charged with resisting arrest and assaulting a police officer. The Hoovers sent a number of photographs and news clippings with a letter and ask that concerned persons send on. Dale Danks, Mayor, 219 S. President Jackson, MS 39201 in protest. The family is seeking financial help for travel expenses. For more info contact Hoover family, PO Box 5905, St. Louis 63134.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEMONSTRATION

On June 3 Mitch Snyder of the Community for Creative Non-Violence will be meeting with Des Moines homeless activists to discuss plans and strategize for a mass demonstration to be held in Washington DC during the first week of October. Several national groups are organizing the demonstration, which will include caravans from California and New York coming to lobby Congress for meaningful housing legislation and a march from the Pentagon to the Capitol, where a mass rally will be held. Organizers hope for a turnout of half a million people, and concerned persons to attend the meeting with Mitch Snyder on the 3rd of June at 7:30 PM at the Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting House, 42nd and Grand. For more information contact Ane Fitzgerald at 243-7322.

RURAL
URBAN

By Kay Meyer

For the last 12 years, Barry Haglan and I (and eventually our three children) have been living the "Rural Good Life" on a 40 acre homestead about 20 miles south of Des Moines. After years of daily chores, milking, gardening, feeding livestock, watering, churning, cooking and cleaning, I've decided that these daily chores, which I enjoy, also prevent me from participating in the human community. After volunteering at the Catholic Worker House all winter I decided to move into the community this summer. Besides being able to work with and help people, I'm also trying to find a way that our farm could help the Catholic Worker.

Back in March, we had a meeting at the Catholic Worker House to discuss this possibility of opening up our farm to the Catholic Worker and Kindred communities. About 15 people came, and although I'm not sure everyone got all the questions they had answered (or even asked), we all got to know one another, and I was glad so many folks came.

The week after Easter a group of us went out to visit the farm and plant potatoes. With five people it didn't take long to plant a pretty good sized patch. So we spent the remainder of the day hiking around the 40 acres and looking over the house, which isn't in too good shape but has some great possibilities with all its southern exposure.

The last Friday we had another discussion at the Catholic Worker House and about 10 people came. We decided to grow a community garden out at the farm, one large patch that we would all work on. We are going to concentrate on growing lots of greens (chard, collards, kale, turnips), edible soybeans, some root crops such as beets and carrots, corn and also plant as many bedding plants as we could get our hands on.



Besides working on the garden, I hope the people in the Catholic Worker and Kindred communities feel welcome to come out to our farm just to relax, to get in touch with the environmental community. There's nothing like hauling water or chopping wood to remind us that we are human beings and the most important needs we have are clean water, good food and fresh air.

It was always Dorothy Day's plan to have Catholic Worker farms that would complement the Catholic Worker Houses. And through the years community farms have come and gone, unfortunately, have gone. It is my hope that this project can grow slowly, thoughtfully, and be successful.

To Donna at the Catholic Worker

It's scary to open up your house
to one you've never seen before,
scary to open up your heart
to someone scarred and poor.

I am scarred and poor
and the road should feel like home to me,
but praying, searching, yet I think
I'll fear life till I'm 83.

I will cling to what I have.
What is a soul in a shopping mall?
And what is this world but a shopping mall?
What is there to do but fall?

I am lucky to be poor,
to feel God watching over me,
putting me here with all of you
to help me be and help me see.

You are quite a lady, Donna,
not an angel, no, not yet,
but a child of fire and light,
juggler of dishes and children and wit.

Allow me to rest in sight of that.
No other rest here must I have.
And when you go I'll be more fit
to face the door and who it gives.

-Rose O'Ryan

IOWANS SHOULD THINK TWICE

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By Dennis McLaughlin

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The sixth commandment clearly reads "Thou Shalt Not Kill." Christ taught us to uphold the commandments, but did he teach that it's OK to rework the Thou Shalt Not Kill part?

As a teenager I recall questioning my parents as to why it was not a mortal sin, or even a sin, for that matter, to kill during war when we were taught to "obey the commandments." Aware that several of my uncles had served in WWII, I was wondering if they had killed anyone and with the war in Viet Nam I wondered if I would be asked to kill someone in the near future.

Capital Punishment

I will never understand the reasoning that Christ somehow sanctioned capital punishment by his submission to it and yet that is what someone tried to convince me. On the contrary, Christ taught many things during his brief time among us as a human being; however, justification of the death penalty was not one of them. After all, we needed no one to teach us that.

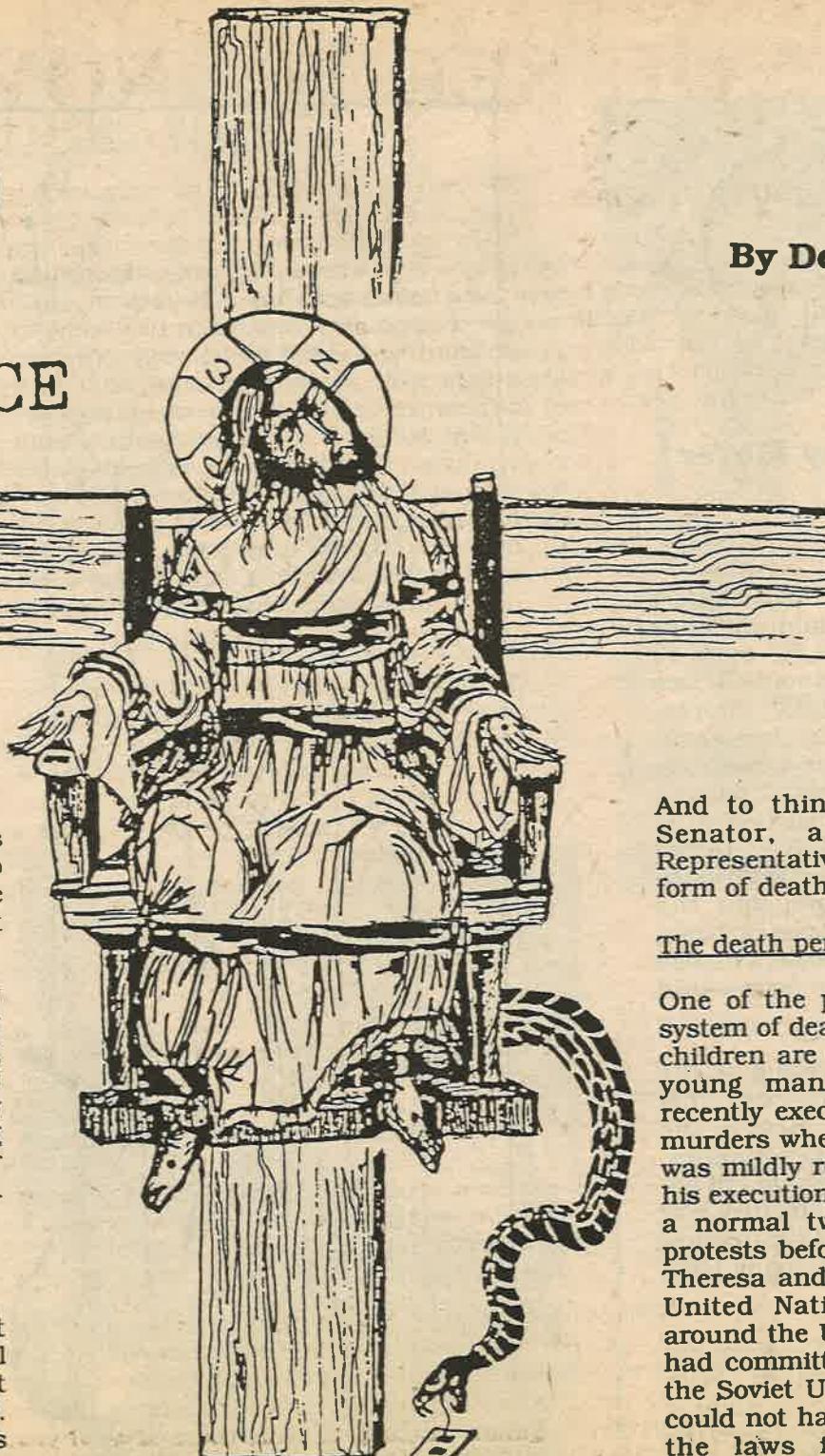
Wrongful Execution

One of the more obvious examples Christ left us was the tragedy of the wrongful execution. "The killing of the prophets." The process by which state and religious leaders, with support from the people, were able to silence God's word; and even, temporarily, to silence God himself. It was into this arena Christ offered his life. Both in unity with those who had been silenced before him, and in unity with the will of the Father. Subjecting himself to those who would even kill the vineyard owner's own son. Never condoning such a process, rather exposing it, by breaking the rules and rising from the silence.

"I shall oppose the penalty of death until the infallibility of human judgment has been demonstrated to me." Thomas Jefferson

There appeared in 1987, in the Stanford Law Review, a study by two scholars, "Miscarriages of Justice in Potentially Capital Cases." This study uncovers 350 wrongful convictions this century, of which 23 led to executions. More than half of the wrongful convictions stem from perjured testimony or faulty identifications by witnesses. Suppressed evidence and coerced confession also play a major role in wrongful convictions.

Joseph Brow frequently speaks to college students about the criminal justice system which he says is just that, criminal. He regards public speaking as a form of therapy, a way of releasing some of the bitterness and the anger at having lived 100 yards and 15 hours from execution on Florida's death row. Only hours before he was strapped into the electric chair



someone finally realized they might have convicted the wrong man. Four years later, the prison doors swung open for Brown, but with no official admission of error, no apology, no financial compensation for his legal nightmare. Brown says that when America looks at him it sees a flaw. "They can look at me and then turn their heads, but they've already seen me. I'm not an exception. As long as they're still killing, I'll be talking."

The system is backlogged and apart from the question of morality is the fact that something is terribly wrong with the system. For every execution in America the courts sentence 13 more people to die! Their financial burden is a case in itself against the existence of the death penalty. Florida taxpayers have spent at least \$57,215,210.00 since 1973 to execute 18 people. That's \$3,178,623.00 per execution. A bitter pill for the Capital Punishment advocates to swallow.

State Senators in Kansas voted in favor of the death penalty only to change their minds in the face of a "sagging farm economy." Conservative Senators couldn't stomach the bill. The bottom line was \$11.5 million for the first year alone.

"It takes eight years or more of litigation to execute someone, and the process just can't go faster," says Sandy Weinberg, a former federal prosecutor. The Supreme Court says that "death is different," in that extensive procedures must be followed to assure that the process is "fair." And that, in every case, takes a lot of time.

Even former governor of Florida Bob Graham, though he signed more death warrants than anyone in the state's history, pronounces the death penalty system a "quagmire."

And to think that in Iowa we have a Senator, a Governor, and various Representatives who say they favor the form of death penalty.

The death penalty is applied to juveniles

One of the peculiarities of the American system of death sentencing is that no children are exempt. In South Carolina a young man named Terry Roach was recently executed for participating in the murders when he was 17 years old. He was mildly retarded so that at the time of his execution he had the mental capacity of a normal twelve year old. There were protests before his execution from Mother Theresa and the Secretary General of the United Nations, and from persons around the United States. If Terry had committed his crime in South Africa, the Soviet Union, in China or in Libya he could not have been put to death, because the laws in those countries prohibit juveniles from execution. The laws in the U.S. do not, though recently a decision was handed down by the Supreme Court which restricts the execution of anyone under the age of 16.

"The time is long overdue for the U.S. to comply with the international consensus and standard of decency which stipulates that age 18 is the age of adulthood." Healey, executive director of Amnesty International.

One even finds catatonics on death row who are unable to respond verbally and must be fed intravenously in order to keep them alive to meet their fate with the electric chair.

This year in Georgia we saw the passage of the nation's first law prohibiting the execution of the mentally retarded.

Most people, I think, only see the surface of the issue. It is an emotional and political issue. It is a knee-jerk reaction we have all felt, but it is the hateful. But we do not copy the example of the criminal and there is no good reason why we should deviate from that in the case of murder.

How can we call for an end to the torture of prisoners in the Soviet Union? How can we approve the drug killing of prisoners in Texas? Or condemn the torture of prisoners by electric shock in Chile while we condone the use of electric shock to kill prisoners in Florida?

"Electrocution is the technological equivalent of burning someone at the stake." U.S. Supreme Court Justice Paul Stevens.

The methods keep changing. Governments keep trying to find a "new" way to kill people. But governments should not be in the business of killing their citizens. And there is no decent way to kill people.

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"NOW YOU SEE IT, NOW YOU DON'T."

By Barry Haglan

[Barry Haglan has lived on a small farm in northwest Warren County, Iowa, for over 20 years. He and Kay Meyer, a Community member, are opening the farm up as a sister community to the Worker. Kay's article also appears in this issue.]



I couldn't decide whether to hurl invective or cry. Right before my very eyes lay a barren waste of land, the evidence of its destruction still very fresh. Bulldozers had not only uprooted hundreds of trees, large and small, but had scraped the surface vegetation clean away, leaving thick, black, soil exposed to the winter elements.

It wasn't a large area, no more than three or four acres at the lowest edge of the crop field, where water drains and stands. Cottonwood and maple trees grew tall from frequent moist infusions. And willows. Willows of every size and conformation. Willows for basket-making, willows for rustic chairs, willows for wickiup and sweat house construction. Lots and lots of very nice willows.

But it's a thing of the past now. It's doubtful that swamp milkweeds or wild prairie sweet peas will reappear -- all were gouged out and piled up in the house-high heaps of tree bodies that stretch alongside the boundary fence. Sooner or later the torch will be set to those piles, because softwood is at the bottom of the list of "desirable" firewoods.

This sort of activity has occurred so frequently in this area in the past ten to twenty years that it's not really surprising anymore. The field right across the road to the west, owned by a wealthy construction contractor, received the same dose of "progress" about 8 or 10 years ago, on a larger scale. Roughly ten acres of trees were removed to make way for the tilling machine, to be followed by a tractor that looks more like an army tank, pulling a heavy disk harrow. Hybrid corn was then planted, as it has been every year since. I used to watch groups of eight to ten deer dash across that fringe of timber, but they won't do it anymore. It's too risky to bolt completely exposed to the next thick growth of trees.

Timber lands are not the only targets to receive harsh treatment. A few miles north of here is a remnant of the virgin prairie that once was the predominant ground cover before settlement began. Again, it is not a large area, less than five acres. One portion runs along a dirt road. The county engineer decided to entirely eliminate that portion of the prairie by stripping the soil down several feet in elevation, and then it was trucked to a site several miles away to be used as fill dirt on a county road construction project. When asked about it, he said, "I didn't know it was a prairie." He promised to reseed it with native grasses, but after 4 years, this has still not been done. Today it is a weed patch.

Down the road in the other direction is another prairie remnant, again alongside a county road. The same county engineer decided to straighten out a curve in the road at that point, and wiped out a good share of the growth. I guess I can forget about transplanting tubers from the Indian potato vines that used to grow in the ditch there.

Last fall two local farmers dropped by to ask if they could hunt deer in the overgrowth that extends along our west fence. These men rent the farmland on the forty acres next door, so, in an act of neighborliness, I agreed, provided that I get a fresh deer hide to work over and tan.

One of them remarked as they were getting ready to leave, "We like to hunt with eight or ten other guys, it's a social thing.. a good time. I don't care for the taste of deer meat."

Wishing I could've rescinded my permission, I asked if they knew about the large patch of blackberries that grows along the edge of their field. We have picked five gallon buckets of fruit there several years running, leaving plenty for the birds who relentlessly ridiculed us in their own tongues for our annual theft.

"You better watch it. I sprayed them vines. I wouldn't eat them if I was you."

What kind of person is it that purposely tries to kill off a source of healthy food?

The point of all this is to draw attention to the fact that violence is not confined to situations where humans interact with each other, but extends into the relationship with the natural environment, which none of us has had a hand in creating. It is a form of violence that is, at present, completely legal, even justifiable, in order to increase the perimeters devoted to hybrid corn and soybeans, or housing projects, or roadways.

On the surface, it may not seem malignant. But if you ever witness the sudden eviction of a squirrel from its lair high in the reaches of a boxelder tree, and hear the crunch of ripping roots as the tree is pushed over by a D-8 caterpillar, perhaps it will nevermore seem so benign.

"Why do [the settlers] come on to the reservation to cut down trees for [the steamboats] when they have not exhausted that on their own lands?" -- complaint of Ioway Indian chiefs to their agent in 1854.

"Once I worked for a farmer who went out and spoke to the trees, he would even pat the trunks. I could've worked for him a long time." -- an aged Lakota medicine man.



poisoned grapes

The controversy over the use of Alar and the traces of cyanide in grapes imported from Chile have brought concern about the food produced and consumed in the U.S. into the forefront of public attention. Twenty years ago, people across the country boycotted grapes in order to put pressure on chemical companies to halt the use of dangerous pesticides, such as DDT.

A boycott has again been organized in order to obtain a ban on the deadly pesticides currently being used by growers. Local support for this boycott is imperative, not only for achievement of the rights of farm workers, but also for the health and protection of the consumers who purchase the grapes.

Specifically, the United Farm Workers have called for a ban on five of the most dangerous pesticides used in growing grapes, including captan and methyl bromide. Workers, and those living in the vicinity of the sprayed fields, are threatened by the chronic effects of dangerous pesticide use. Some of the hazards include cancer, birth defects, stillbirths and miscarriages.



For further information about local activities relating to the boycott, contact Amy Toomsen at 278-2167 or Paula Campos at 274-4851.

From Deterrence to Love: *A Call To Action* With Bishop Thomas Gumbleton



S.A.C.
Headquarters
Omaha, Nebraska
May 8-9

Pax Christi USA

The public is welcome at all events.

Monday, May 8:

From Deterrence to Love: 7:30pm. A lecture by Bishop Gumbleton at Creighton University, Rigge Lecture Hall, 2400 California Street, Omaha.

Bishop Thomas Gumbleton is an auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Detroit. He is the president of Pax Christi USA and has been active in the faith-based peace movement for over 15 years.

Nonviolence Training: 9:00pm. Rigge Lecture Hall, Creighton University. N.B. Participants considering civil disobedience are required to attend this meeting immediately following Bishop Gumbleton's talk. Legal consequences will be addressed at this time.

Tuesday, May 9:

Eucharistic Liturgy: 10:00am, Bishop Gumbleton presider. Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, 2310 "O" Street, Omaha. There will be a car caravan to S.A.C. after mass.

Parking & Assembly: 11:30am, Columban Fathers Center (back lot), Calhoun Street, Bellevue, NE.

Nonviolent Direct Action: Noon. Demonstration and line crossing at the Bellevue Gate, S.A.C. Headquarters.

For More Information Call:
(402) 451-1212 (days)
(402) 422-0592 (nights & weekends)



PLOWSHARES



From Jonah House in Baltimore we have news of more Plowshares actions which have taken place over the last couple of months in Europe.

On December 8, the anniversary of the INF treaty signing, Kees Koning, a Catholic priest, and Co Van Melle, a physician and toxicologist, entered the cruise missile base in south Netherlands and hammered on nuclear bunkers. Supporters cut gaps in a perimeter fence at the other end of the base, shoved in bicycles, rode around aimlessly, and drew off security so that Kees and Co could enter successfully.

On January 1, Kees and Co acted again, this time cutting into a Royal Dutch Air Force Base, wielding hammers against two fighter bombers on their way to Turkey to crush Kurdish nationalism.

Hundreds of activists attended the trial which followed this second disarmament action. Three judges heard the trial, as there are no juries in the Netherlands. Witnesses included a Kurd in exile and an international law expert (a former Captain in the Royal Dutch Air Force), who testified to the genocidal and lawless nature of this NATO transaction against the Kurds. Philip Berrigan also testified in court and to the media concerning the nature and intent of Plowshares actions. During the course of the trial news came of yet another

disarmament action in which two young resisters took hammers to two Hawk missiles.

On February 9 the trial ended with the court freeing Kees and Co, despite the former asserting that he would return to some military base.

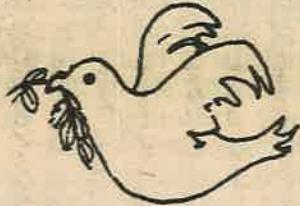
On Thursday, Feb. 16, the first Plowshare action took place in Sweden. Gunilla Akerberg and Anders Grip, members of the peace group "Stop Weapons Export - Plowshares 2" entered a railroad yard in Kristinehamn where weapons wait to be shipped to an Indian boat in Uddevalla, on the west coast of Sweden.

Gunilla and Anders damaged the loading mechanism of the Haubits 77B mobile anti-aircraft missile launcher with hammers. The weapons are manufactured by Bofors Corporation in Sweden for export to India.

They then set up a banner saying "Disarmament has begun." "We must dare to be disobedient," they said. "Violence and oppression depend upon our obedience and passivity."

The activists were released later that night and await charges. Arresting officers were very supportive, even giving them the name of another location requiring the attentions of plowshares.

RESISTANCE NEWS



JAILED RESISTERS

Helen Woodson 03231-045
c/o Dixon, 622 Water St.
Ashland, WI 54806
Jean Gump 03789-045
Cottage 17, Box A, Alderson
WV 24910

Larry Morlan 03792-045
FPC, Box 1000, Marion, IL 62959
Gregory Boertje 08052-016

Box 5000, Oakdale, LA 71456
Carl Kabat 03230-045 FCI
Box 1000 Sandstone MN 55072

Jerry Ebner 04467-045
FCI Box 1000, Sandstone MN 55072
Joe Gump 04468-045

FCI Box 1000 Sanstone MN 55072
George Ostenson Oakjill Correctional Inst., Box 238, Oregon W
53575

Katya Komisaruk Camp Geiger
Box 19202, Spokane, WA 99219
Larry Cloud-Morgan c/o 2404

Sheridan Ave. South, Minneapolis MN 55405
Ariel Glenn c/o Casa Maria
Box 05206, Milwaukee, WI 53205

Jerry Zawada 04995-045
c/o Val Zawada, 7117 Magoun Ave.
Hammond IN 46324

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Dorothy Eber 04996-045 c/o MPP
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Diane Poole 847 Brookside,
Richmond, CA 04801

Don Mosley Milledgeville City
Jail, 125 W. McIntosh St.,
Milledgeville, GA 31061

Max Rice Milledgeville City
Jail, 125 W. McIntosh St.,
Milledgeville, GA 31061

Jim Johnson was sentenced to 30 days suspended and two years probation for his action reported in the last issue of stopping the blue train at Creston, IA.

Mike Sprong, for merly of the Des Moines Worker, Mark Rogness, formerly of Kindred Community, Barb Katt and John LaForge were sentenced to two days time served and a \$500 fine for their Jan. 15 action of attempting to enter a launch control center in North Dakota.

On April 3rd, Mark Rogness, John LaForge, and Dan Schechter returned to a second launch control center, this time near Cooperstown, ND. As in the Jan. 15th action, the intent was to present pamphlets to the base personnel concerning their responsibility under international law for the activities going on there. This time the demonstrators were arrested and removed but were released with the government reserving the right to prosecute at a future date.

MISSOURI PEACE PLANTING

Several participants in last August's action at 10 missile silos have been tried and sentenced: Franciscan father Jerry Zawada was given 25 months and was cited for contempt; Ariel Glenn got 19 months plus \$1575 fine; Bonnie Urfer got 25 months; and Dorothy Eber got 26 months, \$2000 fine and a contempt charge. Mike Stanek, Sam Guardino, Katey Feit and Sam Day were convicted and are awaiting sentencing...

From Deterrence to Love: A Call To Action With Bishop Thomas Gumbleton

By Frank Cordaro

Five years ago in their peace pastoral the U.S. bishops wrote, "The crisis of which we speak arises from this fact: Nuclear war threatens the existence of our planet. This is a more menacing threat than any the world has known. It is neither tolerable nor necessary that human beings live under this threat, but removing it will require a major effort of intelligence, courage, and faith." In their pastoral the U.S. Bishops were following the examples set by the Second Vatican Council, Pope John XXIII, Pope Paul VI, and Pope John Paul II, in their outright condemnation of the Nuclear Arms Race. The bishops left a major loophole in their statement with their conditional acceptance of nuclear deterrence. A conditional acceptance despite their recognition that "deterrence is the most dangerous dimension of the nuclear arms race." The bishops could not bring themselves to an outright condemnation of deterrence. They took their lead from Pope John Paul II who stated in June 1982 that "deterrence based on balance, certainly not as an end in itself but as a step on the way toward a progressive disarmament, may still be judged morally acceptable." The United States bishops' conditional acceptance of deterrence was based on a deterrence that was both balanced and temporary and leads to true disarmament.

In the last five years the MX missiles, the Trident missiles and the B1 Bomber have come on line, the development and the deployment of the Stealth Bomber and the cruise missiles continue, and Star Wars, the most destabilizing arms project, continues to be funded. An eighteen month unilateral Soviet halting of nuclear testing went unanswered by the U.S. while all we can show for disarmament in the Reagan years is a ratified INF treaty: a treaty that is mostly cosmetic. With the completion of the INF treaty 2,000 nuclear weapons will be dismantled, yet since 1981 we have added 6,000 new nuclear weapons to our arsenal.

Five years after the pastoral our nuclear deterrence policies are neither balanced nor temporary, nor have they led towards any real disarmament. Bishop Gumbleton and Pax Christi are now asking Catholics and other people of good faith to come together in one voice and declare our nuclear deterrence policies immoral. It should be noted that the U.S. Methodist bishops have already taken this step in their pastoral letter on nuclear weapons called, "In Defense of Creation." In this respect we are following their lead.

It is fitting that Bishop Gumbleton bring the Pax Christi campaign of "Deterrence to Love" to Omaha, the home of the Strategic Air Command Headquarters (S.A.C.). S.A.C. is the command center for all our land and air based strategic nuclear weapons systems. Also stationed at SAC is the Joint Strategic Targeting Planning Staff. This targeting staff is responsible for choosing the targets for all U.S. nuclear weapons. Their targeting strategies are taken from the 'Single Integrated Operational Plan' (SIOP). This document outlines all possible U.S. nuclear war plans. Since the late 70's the U.S. has been moving from a policy of deterrence to a policy of fighting and prevailing in a nuclear war. The Reagan years have brought on line the nuclear hardware necessary to carry out strategies and policies that can initiate or sustain a protracted nuclear war with the stated goal of winning. More dangerous than the weapons themselves, the work of the Joint Strategic Targeting Planning Staff represents the faulty 'thinking' behind the Arms Race.

Declaring our nuclear deterrence policies immoral goes to the heart of the nuclear arms race dilemma. Declaring nuclear deterrence immoral demands our rethinking of war in an entirely new way, the "moral turnabout" that Pope John Paul II has called for in our nuclear deliberations. Acceptance of deterrence has for too long served as the moral loophole that has allowed the Arms Race to go on unabated. Every day at the Joint Strategic Targeting Planning Staff office, human beings, some I'm sure who are Catholic, are plotting and updating nuclear war scenarios in direct violation of the Church's moral teachings on nuclear weapons.

It is particularly heartening that Bishop Gumbleton is bringing his campaign on deterrence to Omaha not only in word but in deed, also. Bishop Gumbleton will be giving a lecture at Creighton University at 7:30 PM on Monday, May 8th. The following day after presiding at an open Eucharistic Liturgy at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Omaha at 10:00 AM, the Bishop and others will car caravan to Bellevue, Nebraska and witness and support a 'line crossing' at SAC's gate. It is not enough to say SAC's mission is

immoral. People will need to act out their belief as well.

I am reminded of the words of Bishop Dingman following the first Faith and Resistance Retreat which he hosted in Glenwood, Iowa, in February 1985. Six hundred people attended the three day retreat that ended with 226 of them 'crossing the line' at SAC. Bishop Dingman wrote, "I am beginning to understand that in order to defend ourselves nonviolently we must begin by disarming ourselves nonviolently ... Through a discipline of nonviolent direct action we can develop whole new ways of thinking and action that will one day help us break free of our dependency on deterrence."

We are not going to think our way out of the arms race. We are not going to educate our way out of the arms race. We are going to act our way out of this nuclear peril with a nonviolent activism of personal risk and sacrifice, knowing minds will change only after hearts are touched. What is needed is a path to conversion. Those crossing the line at SAC on May 9th will be showing us a path, a way out of our nuclear bondage.



Via Pacis
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Address Correction requested

Meditation on a Franciscan Cross
Worked on the Ground in Stone
by an unknown hand at the
Nevada Test Site Peace Camp

Ravaged earth mother
holds again
the crucified body
fingers white, stonelike, bonelike:
seen through betrayed soldier flesh ---
in crimson heat.

Desert
Silence

Blossom bursts
on a branch of almond ---
Answer to our desolation.
"I am watching over,
My word will not go unheard forever."

-- Judith Dawes
March 1989

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